

October 16, 2022

NEVER GIVE UP

Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

As we continue in the Season after Pentecost, the longest season of the church year, we are reminded that we grow as people of faith and disciples of Christ in times together and times apart.



In this last half of the Season after Pentecost, stories of faith and encounters with Jesus give us the opportunity to think about how we can live faithfully in our daily lives and grow together as the church. This is an exciting journey of discovery, encouragement, and transformation.

.....

This week, we wonder about what justice looks like for ourselves and our neighbours and how we might partner with a God that never gives up on us toward change.

Justice Inspiration

Read [Luke 18:1–8](#) or **listen** to the audio story “[Jesus Encourages Persistence](#)” or **gather** around as someone shares the story “[The Woman and the Judge](#)” in this week’s Exploring Our Faith.

It can be hard to know what to do and how to get things done regarding justice and the common good. We can feel powerless to make a difference. We hear this week of a widow who never gives up in her pursuit for justice. Spend some time reflecting on her strength and the other people that inspire your faith that things will change.

- **Who are your social justice heroes?**
- **What qualities do your heroes bring to their justice pursuits?**
- **What inspires you most about these heroes?**

Watch [How Kids Make Things Fair](#) to remember that sometimes justice is as simple as remembering to share. Discuss together:

- **What do you share as a family?**
- **What makes it hard to share?**

Look, Create, Learn

Look for God in the Headlines

Materials newspapers, news-weeklies, magazines, markers

Directions

We can feel like there is only bad news. We might sigh when we read the newspaper or watch the evening news, but God is everywhere.

1. Fan the news media across the table.
2. Notice the front pages and share what you see. Share any feelings that emerge.
3. Explore how you might see a God-presence in the pages of these newspapers and magazines.
4. Flip through the pages and see how many times you see a God-presence. Use the marker to draw a big circle around your findings.
5. Look back over all that you have found and give thanks that God is always with us. Sometimes we only need to look.



Create a whole body self-portrait using cutouts from magazines and newspapers. Encourage children to look in the mirror and describe the shape of their face; skin colour and complexion; eye shape and colour; hair colour, texture, and style; and nose shape. Find words that describe how God sees you. Use images or even features that celebrate the kind of person you are trying to be in your justice-seeking. As you work, you might explore these questions:

- **What do you need in/on your body to help you not give up?**
- **What is in your heart?**
- **How much can you hold in your hands?**
- **How do you move your feet for justice?**
- **How do you use your eyes, ears, or mouth for justice?**

Learn the song “[God Wants Us to Try](#)” in this week’s Exploring the Faith. Make reminders of this song by illustrating the lyrics on papers that you display on the bathroom mirror and by the front door.

During the Week

Share Stories

Search in your local library for a book about your hero to share at bedtime. There are tons of excellent picture books available right now that you might request for future checkout. Here is one list of [40 Picture Books for Young Activists](#).

Do One Thing

After reviewing the headlines this week, you might still be thinking about a news story that stuck with you about racism, climate change, or hunger. Decide as a family what is one thing that you could do to make a difference this week.

Have a Family Movie Night

Check [15 Movies That Help Kids Do the Right Thing](#) and [The Best Social Justice Movies and Documentaries](#). Be mindful of age recommendations and choose a movie to watch together to explore justice themes over popcorn.

Prayer

God, you give us
bodies with big hearts
and open minds.
Help us open our hearts and hands
to create change in your world. Amen.

Listen to the song “Justice Cry” (MP3 available [here](#) for purchase and download).

Visit [Lecture Connection](#) for current events that connect with this week’s scriptures.

Photo credit: Unsplash/Tim Mossholder

